



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

November 14, 2003

Governor Ehrlich Details Procedures for Pardon and Commutation

Outlines Events Leading to Karen Lynn Fried's Commutation

Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. today released details that outline the Governor's Office of Legal Counsel's procedure and timeline for the following: Pardon and Commutation Procedure, Chronology in the Karen Lynn Fried Case and Commutation Procedure for Karen Lynn Fried. The press release sent on October 31, 2003, announcing Governor Ehrlich's intent to grant clemency to twelve persons is also attached.

Pardon and Commutation Procedure

1. The Office of Legal Counsel will review twenty (20) cases each month.
2. Create a log and login cases as they arrive.
 - a. Review contents of files against our checklist materials.
 - b. Notify the Commission of any additional materials needed.
3. Assign cases to attorney for review.
 - a. Criteria analyzed:
 - i. Nature and circumstances of the relevant offense
 - ii. Effect of a pardon on (a) the victim and (b) the community
 - iii. Petitioner's criminal history
 - iv. Reason the pardon is needed
4. Prepare a memorandum for the Governor with a recommendation.
5. Governor's decision.

6. Coordinate with Press Office:
 - a. Notice to the Commission;
 - b. If yes, a letter to the Secretary of State for publication;
 - c. Any press release
7. Enter results in log for Governor's review.

Chronology in the Karen Lynn Fried Case

1. March 23, 1978 – Karen Lynn Fried, age 17, participates in the murder of Toni Jordan.
2. September 15, 1978 – Karen Lynn Fried is sentenced to life in prison for the murder and a concurrent 5 year sentence for conspiracy to commit murder.
3. August 28, 1988 – Judge John E. Raine, the sentencing judge in the Fried case, writes “Karen Fried has achieved the maximum rehabilitation and has reached the point where she should be paroled.”
4. November 15, 2000 – Maryland Parole Commission submits a request to Governor Glendening to commute Ms. Fried’s sentence from life to a term of 45 years.
5. January 19, 2001 – Governor Glendening denies the Parole Commission’s request.
6. November 19, 2002 – Maryland Parole Commission again submits a request to Governor Glendening to commute Ms. Fried’s sentence.
7. January 2, 2003 – Governor Glendening denies the Parole Commission’s request.
8. February 20, 2003 – Maryland Parole Commission submits a request to Governor Ehrlich to commute Ms. Fried’s sentence.
9. Governor’s Office of Legal Counsel reviews the Parole Commission request by following the established procedures for reviewing commutation requests. The Office instructs the Parole Commission to contact the victim’s family in the Fried Case, which the Commission does. The Counsel’s Office prepares a memorandum on the Fried Case recommending the Governor commute the life sentence to a term of 45 years. The Governor meets with the Counsel’s Office and, after carefully reviewing the Fried case on its merits, agrees with the Maryland Parole Commission and the Counsel’s Office to commute the life sentence to a term of 45 years.
10. October 31, 2003 – Governor Ehrlich announces his intention to commute Karen Lynn Fried’s sentence from life in prison to a term of 45 years.
11. November 14, 2003 – Governor Ehrlich signs the Executive Order commuting Karen Lynn Fried’s life sentence to a term of 45 years.

Commutation Procedure for Karen Lynn Fried

1. The Office of Legal Counsel receives the Maryland Parole Commission's recommendation and case file for Karen Lynn Fried on February 20, 2003. The Parole Commission recommends the Governor commute the life sentence of Karen Lynn Fried.
2. The Office of Legal Counsel reviews the recommendation and case file for Karen Lynn Fried. The Office follows the established procedure for reviewing commutations by analyzing: the nature and circumstances of the relevant offense, including the age of the Petitioner and the degree of participation; the effect of the commutation on the victim and the community, including the likelihood of recidivism; the Petitioner's criminal history and performance while incarcerated; and the reason for the commutation.
3. The Office of Legal Counsel instructs the Maryland Parole Commission to contact the victim's family. The Victim Coordinator for the Parole Commission contacts the Baltimore County State's Attorney's Office. While there is no victim notification on file, the Parole Commission, at the request of the Office of Legal Counsel, researches and locates the victim's family. The victim's family is contacted and advised of the Parole Commission's recommendation and that the Governor is reviewing the case.
4. The Counsel's Office prepares a memorandum recommending that the Governor commute the life sentence to a term of 45 years.
5. The Governor meets with the Office of Legal Counsel to review the memorandum and the recommendation by the Office on the Karen Lynn Fried case. After carefully reviewing the case on its merits, the Governor agrees with the recommendation of the Maryland Parole Commission and the Office of Legal Counsel to commute the life sentence to a term of 45 years.
6. The Governor's Press Office distributes a press release announcing the Governor's intention to commute the life sentence of Karen Lynn Fried to a term of 45 years. As required by law, notice is published for a 10-day period to receive public comments.
7. After the 10-day period, the Governor signs the Executive Order granting the commutation to Karen Lynn Fried.